

UNIFIED ARIZONA VETERANS (UAV) , P.O. BOX 34338, PHOENIX, AZ 85067

MINUTES OF THE UNIFIED ARIZONA VETERANS GENERAL MEETING

HELD ON JANUARY 3, 2009, AT ARIZONA STATE VETERAN HOME,

4141 N. 3rd St., Phoenix 85012

Call to Order: The regular business meeting of the Unified Arizona Veterans was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman Gary Fredricks with proper ceremonies.

The roll was called and a quorum established for conducting business.

Several corrections to the December 6 Minutes were presented: Fleet Reserve Association dues were submitted in September 2008; Homeless Veterans Standdown event dates are February 6, 7, and 8; Rex Patterson reported that the recent successful evaluation of the VAMC applied to all of VAMC, not just the pharmacy. Motion made and seconded to accept the Minutes as corrected (George Cushing, Phil Hanson). Motion carried.

Communications and Correspondence: Chairman Fredricks shared letters he has written to Secretary of State Jan Brewer and Senator John Nelson, who will be receiving the Copper Shield Award on February 13, 2009. Also, correspondence from Billy Little, Public Defender, regarding draft legislation on Veterans Diversion Court.

Treasurer's Report: In Donna Adams' absence, Vice Chair Brody reported a balance of \$1,057.04 and a \$5,000 CD in the old UAV bank account; and in the new Chase Bank account:

Checking: \$ 764.32

AVHOF account: \$11,729.79

Vice Chair Brody proposed a 9-month CD in the amount of \$10,000. Motion made and seconded (George Cushing, Dick Collis) to do so. Motion carried.

Vice Chair Brody reported deposits of \$100 dues from the American Legion and \$25 dues from the AZ Council of MOAA, resulting in a balance of \$730.32 in the Chase Bank account. The balance of the Hall of Fame account was \$11,729.79.

Sickness and Distress: Chaplain Bohach reported that Fred Ferguson was severely injured when he accidentally fell backward into his empty swimming pool.

Presentation – on behalf of UAV, Chairman Fredricks and Treasurer Adams presented a beautiful plaque to Camelback Jack Dean, honoring him for being an ardent supporter of veterans on his former 91.5 FM KOOL radio program and other community activities.

Presentation - Joan Sisco, CEO, Veterans First, briefed that Mary Ellen's Place, affordable permanent housing for veterans, will open in March: 224 E. Hatcher Road, Phoenix, named in honor of the late Mary Ellen Piotrowski, former Chair, UAV; 16 rooms, rent \$250/month. This is a community partnership with AZDVS. Volunteers will be needed to help finish the home. Joan can be reached at 602.841.7663, Veterans First, 8433 N. Black Canyon Hwy, Phoenix 85021.

Presentation - Brad Bridwell, Director, US VETS, briefed the upcoming February 6-8 Homeless Veterans Standdown at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum's North Exhibit Hall, State Fair Grounds, 19th Ave at McDowell Rd. The Standdown is the state's largest outreach to homeless veterans (up to 500 vets participate). 30 agencies and organizations such as VA, SSA, Jewish War Veterans, Veterans First, court system, and others, actively participate in the standdown. There has been a \$169,000 cut to the Homeless budget. Clothing donations are needed. Donations are needed for a \$6,000 gap to rent the Coliseum. US VETS is located at 804 E. Jones Ave., Phoenix 85040. Brad Bridwell's telephone is 602.757.8852.

REPORTS

1. UAV Board of Directors – Chairman Fredricks distributed the 2009 UAV Calendar of Events. Due to Labor Day 2009 falling on Monday, September 7, he asked the body about the September 5, 2009 UAV meeting date. There was consensus to leave the UAV September meeting date as September 5. Chairman Fredricks asked the body to think about a UAV Communications Committee to enhance the sharing of veterans information between meetings using email. A volunteer(s) would be needed. Mike Clemenson volunteered.

Chairman Fredricks reported that two AVHOF Recommendation Committee members' terms are expiring, and will be filled by April. Chairman Fredricks reminded the body that the nominations for the Class of 2009 Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame are due April 30, 2009.

2. Arizona Dept of Veteran Services – Dave Hampton reported the 110th Congress has gone out of business. The 111th Congress will convene on January 6. The 49th Arizona State Legislature will open on January 12. The incoming State Senate President is Bob Burns. The budget is top priority, followed by legislation. Senator Jack Harper is the new Chair, State Veterans and Military Affairs Committee. Beth Lewallen is staff for the same committee. Tax credit donations to the Arizona Military Family Relief Fund reached the \$1 million cap on December 31. Senator Russell Pearce will sponsor MFRF legislation in the 49th State Legislature.

3. UAV Legislative Committee – Lionel Sanchez, Acting Chair, reported that the Legislative Committee's tasks include: legislative initiative to assist homeless veterans, operating instructions for Copper Shield Award (process for determining future award recipients), and helping to obtain \$150,000 to complete the installation of the Southwest Asia Memorial.

4. VA Medical Center – Rex Patterson -- no report.

5. National Memorial Cemetery – Wayne Ellis, Director -- no report.

UNFINISHED/OLD BUSINESS:

1. February 13, 2009 Copper Sword Event: Jesse Gersten, Registrar, reported 135 reservations so far. As of 1/1/09, event cost is \$50 per person.

2. Delinquent UAV Dues:

American Ex-POWS: No representative, no dues.

First MarDiv, representative Bo Bohach – Bo will check on dues

In-Country Vietnam Veterans, representative Al Rodriguez – Lionel Sanchez will check on dues

Marine Corps League, representative Bo Bohach – Bo will check on dues

Third MarDiv, representative Dick Collis – Dick will check on dues

3. UAV Incorporation – Chairman Fredricks shared the American Legion resolution with the body. He discussed the similarity of UAV to the Military Coalition which is incorporated.

4. Copper Shield Plaque – Chairman Fredricks read the proposed plaque inscription which mentions families but not survivors. Kathy Upchurch discussed the difference between “veterans' families” and “survivors.” Motion made and seconded (Phil Hanson, Bill Redpath) to add the word “survivors.” Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Military Museum in Phoenix – Chairman Fredricks reported that he, with the assistance of Vice Chair Brody and AVHOF Society President Frank Schmuck, will be speaking soon to AZDVS Director Joey Strickland about going forward with a military museum in Phoenix.

2. Handicapped Parking abuse at VAMC – Mike Clemenson reported more than one instance of seeing cars lacking handicapped license plates which were parked in handicapped parking spaces. Mike has contacted VAMC police.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

1. 450-500 people participated in the December 7 Pearl Harbor Commemoration Ceremonies at Wesley Bolin Plaza, downtown Phoenix (Donna Adams)

2. 900 children participated in Snowball Express to Disneyland and Universal Studios, December 16-20, largest gathering of WWII survivors (Kathy Upchurch)

3. January 23-24: Families of the Fallen event (Kathy Upchurch)

4. The AZ State Veteran's Commission (Chair Ken Yamanouchi) meets on the 2nd Thursday, 10 a.m., Room A107, State Veteran Home. Meeting is open to the public. Next meeting: Thursday, February 12.

5. Copper Sword and Copper Shield Presentations honoring Eddie Basha and State Senator John Nelson, Friday, February 13, 6 p.m., Commemorative Air Force Wing Museum, Falcon Field, Mesa, AZ

6. 64th Anniversary Iwo Jima Landing and Flag Raising Commemoration Parade and activities in Sacaton, AZ on February 21; for more information, contact the Ira H. Hayes American Legion Post 84 in Sacaton, Gila River Indian Community, Arizona, telephones: 520-562-8484 or 520-836-1022 (Kathy Upchurch)

7. Mike Chamberlin Trio will perform a benefit concert for homeless veterans on February 21, Sun Lakes Country Club, 7 p.m., cost: \$10, information: 480.802.6810 (Art Sloane)

8. The American Veterans Traveling Tribute, formerly known as the Vietnam Wall traveling tribute, will be displayed on March 11-17, 2009 in Apache Junction. Volunteers are needed. (Lew Bradley)

9. Veterans Benefit - As of 1996, the VA must not withhold final checks. (Mike Clemenson)

- 10. Rouser Concrete is a company willing to donate concrete to veterans:
Rouser Concrete, 6740 W. Deer Valley Road, Suite D107, PMB 296, Glendale, AZ 85310,
tel. 623.256.6210, contact is Kelly Lopez at email: kelly.l_rouser@cox.net (Judy Hatch)**
- 11. Affordable insurance, premium \$220/year – Alpha Insurance Services, LLP; 8686 N.
Central Avenue, Suite 200, Phoenix 85020, 602.870.8738 (Judy Hatch)**
- 12. Winner of the 50/50 Raffle was Lew Bradley, \$32. Lew donated his winnings to the
UAV treasury, \$64.00.**

CLOSING & ADJOURNMENT

- 1. The next UAV meeting will be held on Saturday, February 7, 2009.**
- 3. Closing prayer was given by Chaplain Bohach.**
- 4. The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m. with a closing salute to the flag.**

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Culbertson
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